

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23527 261801Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 PA-01 ICAE-00 L-03  
TRSY-02 /056 W  
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R 261744Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5340

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, FR  
SUBJECT: THE FRENCH LABOR SCENE: THE VACATION CALM

REF: A) 22288, B) 19566, C) 19373

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER'S STRIKE THREATENS TO DISTURB AUGUST'S TOURIST FLOW, THE FRENCH LABOR SCENE GENERALLY IS QUIET AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SO UNTIL SEPTEMBER, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT, UNIONS AND BUSINESS WILL RESUME THEIR VERY MUCH UNFINISHED BUSINESS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS FRANCE SETTLES DEEPER INTO ITS VACATION PERIOD, THE THREAT OF MAJOR LABOR UNREST GROWS INCREASINGLY MORE REMOTE (SEE REFS). SPORADIC EPISODES, SUCH AS A SPREADING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS STRIKE, MAY DISRUPT THE TOURIST FLOW BUT THE GENERAL SITUATION IS QUIET AND GROWING QUIETER. THE PRESENT CALM, HOWEVER, REFLECTS A DORMANT RATHER THAN A SETTLED SOCIAL SCENE.

3. JUDGING FROM THE PRESS REPORTS, ONE MIGHT THINK THAT THE RECENT AGREEMENT SIGNED BY ALL THE UNIONS,  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 23527 261801Z

INCLUDING THE CGT, AND THE EMPLOYERS IN THE METAL TRADES, WAS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH TOWARDS LABOR PEACE. A CLOSER LOOK, HOWEVER, SHOWS THAT THE AGREEMENT (WHICH ACCEPTS THE IDEA OF A MINIMUM GUARANTEED ANNUAL WAGE) IS REALLY AN AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER THIS FALL. THE MINIMUM IS TO BE FIXED REGIONALLY, NOT NATIONALLY, BY MEANS OF 92 SEPARATE

NEGOTIATIONS. THE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, IS NONETHE-  
LESS A TACTICAL VICTORY FOR ALL THOSE FORCES WHO  
WISH TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST THE IMAGE OF PROGRESS IN  
THE "SOCIAL OPENING".

4. NATURALLY, IF THE SUPPORTERS OF THAT OPENING  
HAVE BEEN MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR SUCCESSES, ITS  
ENEMIES, MOST NOTABLY THE CGT, HAVE BEEN MAKING  
SNEERING ASIDES. THE CGT'S DEPUTY GENERAL SECRE-  
TARY KRASUCKI HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DISCOUNTING THE  
SIGNIFICANCE OF ALL PROGRESS TO DATE, AND RENEWING  
THE CALL ON THE CFDT TO RETURN TO UNITY OF ACTION  
WITH HIS ORGANIZATION. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE  
CGT LEADERSHIP IS PLAYING FROM A RELATIVELY WEAK  
HAND. IT HAD TO SIGN THE METALS AGREEMENT, ALBEIT  
BEGRUDGINGLY, OR STAND ISOLATED; IT IS PREPARING  
FOR A NOVEMBER CONGRESS AT WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO  
DEAL WITH RANK AND FILE REACTION TO ITS PRO-PCF  
ELECTIONEERING; AND IT IS CLEARLY TRYING, IN CONNEC-  
TION WITH A FURTHER BID TO GET INTO THE EUROPEAN  
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION, TO PROJECT AN IMAGE  
OF RESPONSIBLE TRADE-UNIONISM.

5. IN BRIEF, THEN, THE BIG NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL  
TO COME, AND A GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY EXISTS AS  
TO THEIR OUTCOME. (CAN AND WILL THE REGIONAL  
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PAGE 03 PARIS 23527 261801Z

EMPLOYERS OFFER ENOUGH IN THE METALS INDUSTRY TO  
SATISFY THE CFDT?) THERE IS, MOREOVER, NO REASON  
TO THINK THAT WHAT THE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS DO WILL  
NECESSARILY GUARANTEE LABOR PEACE THIS FALL.  
THE JUNE STRIKES, BY AND LARGE, WERE GRASSROOT  
AFFAIRS; AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY  
CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE REPEATED.  
HARTMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1880245  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE FRENCH LABOR SCENE: THE VACATION CALM  
**TAGS:** ELAB, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/22fc576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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